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Leadership 102

Week 4 Homework

Lesson 5 Questions

1. As Western Christians, why is it so difficult for us to submit to an authority figure in our lives whom we don’t respect?

It’s difficult for us because of the society we live in these days. We are taught that it’s okay to not submit to authority if we don’t “feel” we are treated correctly. For example, the news is quick to share stories of police brutality. But, after learning of the events that led to the incident, most of the time the “victim” is defiant or resisting. My thought is to not break the law, but if I get caught, then I comply and suffer the consequence of my actions, not end up in a scuffle with the authority figure. So now police officers are given a bad reputation for abusing their authority and our society allows retaliation sometimes based on emotion and not on facts.

1. How has God used difficult situations with authority to produce good in your life?

I’ll use my father as an example. He was an abusive man, mostly towards my mother. He was an alcoholic and lost his job, subsequently became addicted to drugs and was homeless. He and my mom separated when I was 8 years-old. I grew up rough and poor, but the little fatherly authority he had in my life allowed me to be the opposite with my children – I didn’t walk out on them. Thank you dad for teaching me how not to be a father.

1. When we choose honor and submit to difficult leaders, what are we saying to God?

We are saying that I will remain obedient because you have purposely placed difficult leaders n my life to see how will handle myself; worldly or godly.

1. In the four areas of delegated authority (civil, church, family, and social), which one do you find hardest to respect and submit to?

Civil authority is the hardest for me to respect. My boss is in a position I held for two years as an interim manager. I know how to do his job, and not to puff out my chest, but I can do a better job than him. However, I had the choice to stay in that position, but after careful consideration, I refused it. Sometimes I catch myself complaining about his management style, but I have to remind myself that since I turned the offer down I should not complain.

1. If we understand the concepts in Romans 13, we begin to understand how we should treat authorities. What can you do in a practical sense to support the authorities above you (bosses, church leaders, and so forth)?

Just do what I’m told to the best of my ability and not complain. Realize that God has placed them in that role and I need to submit to delegated authority.

1. Romans 11:33-34 talks of God’s wisdom and knowledge and how unsearchable His ways are. How do you react when you fail to understand God’s way?

I pray to God to help me understand or reveal His plan during that moment, to help me remain obedient even though it may not make sense to me.

1. The Bible calls us to pray for all those who are in authority. How can you ensure you do this daily?

Add it to my daily prayer list.

1. God’s priority is your redemption, not your comfort or enjoyment. How are people being deceived into believing God wants them to be prosperous more than He desires them to be righteous?  What is happening to Christianity as a result of this idea?

People think that after becoming a Christian that everything will be fine. In reality we have to learn to sacrifice time and deny ourselves the comfort of the world. People may be deceived by what they are suppose to do according to scripture and conform it in a way that may be pleasing to them and not God. Christians will not receive the full benefit of God’s blessings and will be judged on their obedience.

Lesson 6 Questions

1. The idea of honoring authority is, at times, foreign in our society. How have you been taught to honor and respect those in authority over you?

Yes. I remember my parents teaching me to respect my elders, teachers, police officers and others in authority.

1. How does the fear of the Lord help you honor the authority in your life?

If you have true fear of the Lord, you strive to be obedient, see Romans 13:1…

Romans 13:1 (NLT) Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

1. The Bible says to give double honor to those whose work is preaching and teaching (our pastors, Bible study leaders, missionaries, and so forth). What does this look like in day-to-day life?

Honor them by being submissive to their authority and not do things to complicate what the envisioned from God. Remain submissive even if you don’t agree, as long as they are not leading you to sin.

1. When you honor authority, whom are you ultimately honoring?

God because He put them in authority over your life.

1. You may have experienced mistreatment by a person in authority. How has that shaped the level of honor you hive authority now?

I have been mistreated by my parents who were authority figures in my life. Over the years, I learned to forgive them and learned to honor them before they died.

1. Why is it important for Christians to honor those in leadership in our culture? What message does it send when Christians dishonor those in authority?

We set the example for others. If we can’t display honor to those in leadership, then others around us will definitely not do the same and we will give Christianity a bad reputation for God; we are his ambassadors.

1. How have you honored or dishonored those in authority over you?

I have done both, but most of the dishonor was done before I was saved. I honor those in authority now, for the most part. Sometimes I catch myself complaining about my boss at work, but the Holy Spirit convicts me and I try to correct it as soon as possible.